(ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A Global Tiger forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

Lake conservation plan

1332. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of lakes is declining in the country constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any plan for their conservation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the targets fixed and the achievements made thereunder; and

(f) the details of lakes taken up/to be taken up under the said plan during 2003-04 to 2005-06 alongwith funds allocation, like-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The lakes in the country are affected due to problems of pollution, siltation, weeding, encroachments etc. The Ministry is implementing a scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of polluted lakes and tanks in the country. The NLCP was initiated in June, 2001. Till date, projects for conservation of 35 lakes have been approved at an estimated cost of about Rs. 164 crore. An amount of about Rs. 64 crore has been released for these projects till March, 05. The works in respect of 8 lakes have been completed, resulting in water quality improvements.

(f) the details of lakes taken up during 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as under :-

S. No.	Name of Lake	State	Approved Cost	Period of Sanction
1.	4 Lakes of Nainital District	Uttaranchal	Rs. 16.85 crore	July, 03
2.	Nainital Lake	Uttaranchal	Rs. 47.97crore	Aug, 03
3.	Mirik	West Bengal	Rs. 4.01 crore	Aug, 04
4.	Chanapatna Lake, Hasan	Karnataka	Rs. 4.97 crore	Jan, 05
5.	Banjara Lake	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 2.75 crore	Feb, 05
6.	3 Lakes of Agartala	Tripura	Rs. 2.01 crore	Mar, 05
7.	Mahalaxmi Lake	Maharashtra	Rs. 1.85 crore	Mar, 05
8.	Sharanbhasveshwara	Karnataka	Rs. 4.89 crore	Mar, 05
9.	Akkamahadevi, Haveri	Karnataka	Rs. 2.64 crore	Mar, 05

The Ministry has carried out a study for identification of lakes for conservation under National Lake Conservation Plan. The list drawn through this study has been sent to all States for prioritization of lakes in their State. Complete list of prioritized lakes from states are yet to be received. During the current year (2005-06), a provision of Rs. 68 crore is available under NLCP. The Action Plan drawn for the programme includes monitoring & implementation of ongoing lakes besides consideration of new proposals, namely, Dal(Jammu & Kashmir) and Veli Akkulum (Kerala)Lakes, which are already approved by respective Expert Committees and other fresh proposals depending upon the availability of resources under the plan.

Smuggling of skins and organs of animals by mafia gangs

†1333. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many mafia gangs are active in smuggling of skins and organs of animals after poaching them in National Parks;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated any concrete policy for the protection of tigers and other wild animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.